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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /077 W
----------071312Z 073559 /73
O 071125Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO USUN MISSION NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0000
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2258

USIA FOR IP/M, IAA
DEPT. FOR AF/S
CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

SUMMARY: CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PROPOSED VISIT RSA
AND
SAG RESISTANCE. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS AS REPORTED RSA MEDIA (AFRIKAANS
AND
ENGLISH) AS FOLLOWS: (1) YOUNG REPORTED INTENDING VISIT RSA MAY 19/20
TO MEET WITH BUSINESSMEN, STUDENTS IN JOHANNESBURG; BLACK LEADERS IN
SOWETO: ROBERT SOBUKWE IN KIMBERLEY, (2) FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA SAID
VISIT "NOT CONVENIENT" THAT TIME AND PURPOSES DIFFERENT TO THOSE
ORIGINALLY ADVIZED, AND IN ANY CASE SAG NOT APPROACHED "THROUGH PROPER

CHANNELS," (3) BOTHA ELABORATED IN PRESS, RADIO, TV INTERVIEWS ON
REASONS
YOUNG UNWELCOME; (4) YOUNG REPORTED STILL PLANNING VISIT RSA "IF AT ALL

POSSIBLE." FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF REPORTS AND EDITORIALS.
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END SUMMARY.

1. JOHANNESBURG LIBERAL ENGLISH OPPOSITION "RAND DAILY MAIL" MAY
7 QUOTED BOTHA: "WE ARE A PROUD, INDEPENDENT NATION AND NOT GOING
TO CRAWL BEFORE ANY NATION IN WORLD, LEAST OF ALL ANDREW YOUNG."
BOTHA QUOTED COMPLAINING YOUNG FIRST DISCRIBED SAG AS
"ILLEGITIMATE" THEN "UNREPRESENTATIVE" AND NOW HE HAD "REFUSED TO

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ACCORD SAG NORMAL DIPLOMATIC COURTESIES BY FAILING TO GO THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS FOR VISA. ALL THESE FACTORS WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IF YOUNG NOW FOLLOWED NORMAL PROCEDURES AND APPLIED FOR VISA ... WE MAY NOT ALLOW HIM IN BECAUSE OF THIS LATEST THING."

2. SAME PAPER EDITORIALIZED ON INCREASED BUILDUP OF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY AROUND RSA, LISTING NAMIBIA DISCUSSIONS, VIENNA MEETING, MAPUTO CONFERENCE, SOVIET INTEREST. PAPER SAID THIS SIGNALED "NEW PHASE OF INTENSIFIED AND COORDINATED PRESSURES ON RSA. WEST IS TRYING TO PRE-EMPT SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO GAIN FOOTHOLD OF INFLUENCE THIS SUBCONTINENT... AND WHOLE OF AFRICA" AND WARNED WHITE RSA THAT "WEST SEES APARTHEID AS GREATEST SINGLE AID TO RUSSIANS BECAUSE IT FILLS BLACK WITH RESENTMENT AND IS DRIVING THEM INTO ARMS OF RUSSIONS. IT IS NO GOOD FULMINATING AGAINST ANDY YOUNG AND 'DOUBLE STANDARDS' OR TRTING TO STRIKE HEROIC POSTURES. WE WOULD DO BETTER TO LINTEN TO WHAT THE WEST IS TRYING TO TELL US."

3. JOHANNESBURG CONSERVATIVE (PRO-SAG) ENGLISH "THE CITIZEN" MAY 7 QUOTED BOTHA ASKING "IF USG WOULD WELCOME ME IF I WENT TO USA AND ENTERED INDIAN RESERVATIONS AND LED DEMONSTRATIONS." PAPER ALSO REPORTED CABLES AND CALLS POURING INTO OFFICE OF INTERIOR AND INFORMATION MINISTER MULDER DEMANDING YOUNG BE BARRED ENTRY. MULDER QUOTED: "A PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT WILL READ INTO SAG'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT THAT HE IS NOT WELCOME IN RSA."

4. IN LENGTHY EDITORIAL, SAME PAPER UPBRAIDED YOUNG FOR NOT APPROACING SAG THROUGH "NORMAL CHANNELS" AND SAID "WHATEVER IT WOULD HAVE DONE FOR HIS IMAGE AT THE U.N., THE VISIT WOULD HAVE DONE RSA NO GOOD AT ALL. HOPEFULLY HIS VISIT WILL BE PUT OFF. USG UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD HAVE HAD GOOD SENSE ITSELF TO REALIZE YOUNG'S VISIT WAS ILL-ADVIZED AND ILL-TIMED IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES... VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE DELICATE ENOUGH."

5. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS (PRO -SAG) "DIE TRANSVALER" MAY 7 EDITORIALIZED " IT IS CLEAR YOUNG INTENDED HIS VISIT TO NEUTRALIZE VIENNA MEETING. HE WANTS TO EMBARASS SAG AND INCITE FEELINGS IN RSA. ANALAGOUS TO SAG OFFICIAL VISITING USA AND CONSULTING WITH BLACK PANTHER PARTY AND NOT USG. WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS OUR PROBLEMS - WITNESS THE VIENNA MEETING. IN INTERESTS OF RSA/USA RELATIONS, WE HOPE YOUNG STAYS AWAY. IF NOT, WE HOPE PRES CARTER WILL STOP HIM."

6. IN IT'S ONLY COVERAGE OF BROUHAHA, JOHANNESBURG'S BLACK-ORIENTED "THE WORLD" MAY 7 QUOTED KWAZULU CHIEF MINISTER BUTHELEZI SAYING HE HAD ENCOURAGED YOUNG VISIT RSA. ON PRESENT FURORE, BUTHELEZE QUOTED "WHAT DO THEY FEAR ? DO THE FEAR THE VIENNA TALKS ARE SO BRITTLE MR YOUNG'S VISIT MIGHT UPSET THE APPLECART ?"

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7. DURBAN ENGLISH PAPER "NATAL MERCURY" MAY 7 REPORTED OPPOSITION
UNITED PARTY AND PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY HAD CALLED ON SAG "NOT TO
IMPEDE YOUNG'S VISIT." RIGHT-WING INDEPENDENT UNITED PARTY
SPOKESMAN QUOTED SAYING YOUNG "SHOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE WELCOME IN RSA."

PAPER ALSO QUOTED MINISTER BOTHA SAYING RSA "CANNOT BE PUSHED BEYOND A

CERTAIN POINT AND THAT POINT IS FAST APPROACHING."

8. SABC-TV NEWSCAST MAY 6 FEATURED ASSERTIVE INTERVIEW WITH BOTHA
IN WESTDENE CONSTUTUENCY WHERE HE CAMPAIGNING FOR PARLIAMENTARY SEAT.
BOTHA ADAMANTLY STATED SAG POSITION AND POINTS LISTED ABOVE. ASKED
IF RSA/USA RELATIONS WOULD BE STRAINED, BOTHA SAID "THEY PROBABLHHWIL
L BE, BUT THAT CAN MAKE NO DIFFERENCE. WE WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED.
WE WOULD RATHER FACE THE ALTERNATIVES. WE ARE NO LONGER PREPARED
TO REMAIN SILENT IN FACE OF MR YOUNG'S INSULTS."

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9. SABC RADIO NEWSCASTS MORNING MAY 7 REPORTED YOUNG STILL PLANNING
RSA VISIT "IF THAT IS AT ALL POSSIBLE." YOUNG QUOTED SAYING HE
DID NOT SEEK CONFRONTATION BUT ONLY WISHED AVERT FUTURE BLOODSHED.
"RAND DAILY MAIL" QUOTED USUN SPOKESMAN TOM OFFENBURGER SAYING
USG AND SAG "STILL IN CONTACT" ON YOUNG VISIT "AND IT WAS HOPED
MR YOUNG WOULD STILL MAKE THE TRIP." PAPER ALSO QUOTED UNNAMED
STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN SAYING ADMINISTRATION "UNEQUIVOCALLY" ENDORSED
PROPOSED TRIP.HUGHES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770161-0191
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770582/aaaacsxt.tel
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
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SAS ID: 2608520
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20040915
Subject: VISA
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, SF, (YOUNG, ANDREW)
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3f9d0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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